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LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing adjunct access for a circuit in a network management system, the method comprising the step of:
~~providing a respective manageable link representing each non-managed portion of the circuit, responsive to a determination that a non-managed portion of the circuit exists~~
identifying a non-managed portion of a circuit;
identifying a first managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit;
identifying a second managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit; and
providing a link between the first managed portion of the circuit and the second managed portion of the circuit, the link adapted for being characterized as a managed entity by a management system.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~each respective manageable~~ the link is coupled to at least one of a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~each respective manageable~~ the link comprises at least one of a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~said links comprise~~ the link comprises at least one of a digital carrier and an optical carrier.

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5. (Currently Amended) A method for designing a continuous circuit, comprising the steps of:
- determining whether a non-managed portion of a circuit exists;
 - identifying the non-managed portion of the circuit;
 - representing the non-managed portion of the circuit as a network element,
 - the network element adapted for being characterized as a managed entity by a management system;
 - identifying another network element in a managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit; and
 - providing a link between each non-managed portion of the circuit the network element and proximate the another network element in the managed portions of the portion of the circuit, said the link adapted for being characterized as a managed carrier link by a network management system.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~said links are~~ the link is coupled to at least one of:
- a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~said links comprise~~ the link comprises at least one of:
- a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~said links comprise~~ the link comprises at least one of:
- a digital carrier and an optical carrier.
9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
- receiving a request to provision a circuit;

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selecting a path for said the circuit within a network comprising a plurality of network elements;

assigning links bridging non-managed portions of said the circuit path by:

identifying, for each of the non-managed portions of the circuit path,
a first managed portion of the circuit path and a second managed portion
of the circuit path; and

providing, for each of the non-managed portions of the circuit path,
a link between the first managed portion of the circuit and the second
managed portion of the circuit; and

characterizing said the assigned links as managed carrier links.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:
determining if cross-connect network elements exist for bridging non-managed portions of said circuit path to managed portions of said circuit path;
and

assigning available cross-connect network elements to appropriate links bridging non-managed portions of said circuit.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said non-managed portions of said network comprise at least one of adjunct access facilities or leased facilities.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for designing a continuous circuit, comprising:

a processor and an associated storage device including instructions for controlling said processor, said instructions, when executed, causing said processor to perform the steps of:

determining whether a non-managed portion of a circuit exists;

identifying the non-managed portion of the circuit;

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representing the non-managed portion of the circuit as a network element, the network element adapted for being characterized as a managed entity by a management system;

identifying another network element in a managed portion of the circuit proximate the non-managed portion of the circuit; and

providing a link between non-managed portions of the circuit the network element and the another network element in the respective proximate managed portions of the portion of the circuit, said the link adapted for being characterized as a managed carrier link by a network management system.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein ~~links are~~ the link is coupled to at least one of:

a Digital Cross Connect (DCS), a Light wave Guided Cross Connects (LGX), and a Distribution Drop Point (DDP).

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein ~~said links comprise~~ the link comprises at least one of:

a fiber optic cable, a twisted copper pair, and a coaxial cable.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein ~~said links comprise~~ the link comprises at least one of:

a digital carrier, and an optical carrier.